

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01033 101806Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-08 IGA-02 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 DODE-00 /062 W

-----101843Z 127667 /43

R 101446Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, EC, MASS

SUBJECT: ACCUSATION AND DENIALS THAT AMBASSADOR DINITZ RESPONSIBLE
FOR FAILURE OF KFIR DEAL

1. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AMERICAN DECISION NOT TO
APPROVE THE SALE OF ISRAELI KFIR FIGHTER PLANES TO ECUADOR,
TWO KNESSET MEMBERS FROM THE OPPOSITION LIKUD PARTY AIRED
THEIR VIEW ON THE AFFAIR FEBRUARY 9 TO NEWS CORRESPONDENTS.
MK MODAI (COMMENT: WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE CHAIRMAN OF
THE ISRAEL-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) BLAMED ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR DINITZ FOR HIS FAILURE TO GET IN WIRTING FORMER
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ALLEGED ORAL ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S.
WOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THE KFIR SALE. MK ARENS,
A TOP OFFICIAL AT ISRAEL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES WHO DEALT
WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE KFIR, DISPUTE THE LOGIC OF THE
AMERICAN VETO BY POINTING OUT THAT THE AMERICAN NORTHRUP
FIRM WAS ALSO ENGAGED IN TRYING TO SELL WARPLANES TO
ECUADOR. ARENS IMPLIED THAT NROTHRUP'S PARTICIPATION
IN THE BIDDING SHOWED THE TRANSPARENCY OF AMERICAN
CONCERN AT A LATIN AMERICAN ARMS BUILDUP, AND SAID
THAT IF WASHINGTON PERSISTED IN ITS VETO THE FUTURE
OF THE KFIR IS IN JEOPARDY.

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2. BOTH THE ISRALI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE
MFA HAVE REJECTED MODAI'S CHARGES, CALLIN IT UNVERIFIED,
INACCURATE AND IRRESPONSIBLE.

3. DAVAR (BARNEA) REPORTED THAT ISRAEL AND THE CARRTER
ADMINISTRATION HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSS ISRAELI ARMS
EXPORT TRANSACTIONS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF SECRETARY

VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT. DNITZ HAD SUGGESTED THE IDEA TO VANCE, ACCORDING TO BARNEA THE SAME REPORT NOTED INCREASED ISRAELI PESSIMISM OVER THE CHANCES THAT AMERICAN-MADE CLUSTER BOMBS, PROMISED TO ISRAEL BY FORMER PRESIDENT FORD LAST OCTOBER, MAY NOT BE DELIVERED.

4. YEDIOT CARRIED WITHOUT ELABORATION A FRONT-PAGE ITEM THAT AN ISRAELI DELEGATION HAS GONE TO ECUADOR TO TRY TO PERSUADE THAT COUNTRY NOT TO CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER AIRCRAFT FOR THE TIME BEING.

5. HAARETZ'S EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 10 TAKES OFF FROM THE INSTANCE OF THE AMERICAN VETO OF THE KFIR SALE AND GOES ON TO QUESTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE TO RESTRICT INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE IN ARMS. WILL AMERICA LIMIT ARMS SALES TO ALL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES, AND CAN IT ALSO ASSURE THAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WILL NOT UPSET THE REGIONAL BALANCE OF POWER? WITHOUT SIMULTANEOUS LIMITATIONS ON ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, ISRAEL'S SECURITY COULD BE UNDERMINED, SOWING THE SEEDS OF A NEW ARMED CONFLICT, HAARETZ SAYS.

6. COMMENT: THE KFIR DEAL AND RELATED ARMS STORIES HAVE NOT CEASED GENERATING A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF STORIES HERE. THERE ARE A FEW REPORTS THAT THESE SUBJECTS MAY ARISE DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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